

D - 6578

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D - 6579

[illegible]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

Section 1, Special Branch *Blotch*,  
REPORT

Date *January 9,* 19 *40*

Subject *Mrs. V. Livanoff alias Victoria Seou - present activities.*

Made by *D.S.I. Prokofiev.*

Forwarded by .....

Information has been received to the effect that Mrs. V. LIVANOFF alias Victoria SEOU etc., who forms the subject of Special Branch file D-6578, is at present operating, under the name of Mrs. E. V. P. TOLL, an enterprise known as the "SHANGHAI BUREAU OF BUSINESS SERVICE" with an office at 159 Peking Road, 2nd Floor ( Tel. 19066 ). The enterprise is reported to have been established some time during 1939 and at first was located at 88 Nanking Road in a room of the office occupied by Clarke's Inquiry & Protection Agency. In November last it was removed to its present address.

No information is available so far regarding the exact nature of the business conducted by Mrs. Toll. It appears to be an employment bureau, but there are reasons to believe that it undertakes other kinds of business as well.

It will be recalled that Toll was the name of Mrs. Livanoff's second husband.

*A. Prokofiev*  
D. S. I.

D. C. ( Special Branch ).

*SI*  
*Further*  
*in due course*  
*HP*

*C. 2.*

MRS. E. V. P. TOLL  
GENERAL MANAGER  
THE SHANGHAI BUREAU OF BUSINESS SERVICE

88, NANKING RD. ROOM 2

TELEPHONE 10092



Complaint laid by Mrs. Litvanoff alias Victoria Seou

In connection with the complaint laid by Mrs. Litvanoff alias Victoria Seou etc. against her husband from whom she is separated, I have to report that Mrs. Litvanoff is the notorious brothel keeper and procuress for all forms of debauchery. She is still conducting a bawdy house at Japanese Terrace No.1, 237, Dixwell Road, O.O.L. At present, two Russian and four Chinese females are kept on the premises. More are available and may be reached by telephone provided those present do not meet with the approval of visitors. This address is a house of assignation<sup>and</sup> in addition to the ordinary brothel business, Mrs. Litvanoff is also able to provide males for female clients.

The information to the effect that Litvanoff alias Nicolas, her husband is conducting a brothel at Lane 138/2 Moulmein Road is correct. Not only is he keeping a brothel but he is willing to sponsor immoral practices of any kind. This particular brothel appears in the massage column of the Evening Post and the China Press as "Miss Helen, electric massage and manicure, 136 Moulmein Road, House No.2, near Weihaiwei Road." The premises were visited by members of the Special Branch and Litvanoff alias Nicolas, who resides at 640 Weihaiwei Road was in attendance. There was no paraphernalia to suggest a massage establishment at this address which is just a brothel. There were four Russian females present. To an enquiry for the owner of the business, the females after some hesitation called Litvanoff into the reception room. After a conversation on ordinary topics for some time, Litvanoff observing that the females present did not arouse interest stated that he was not interested in the business.

extraordinary entertainment. He continued that he could stage an exhibition between a Russian male and French female, an exhibition of Lesbianism between two French females, and naked dancing. He explained that the house at 136/2 Moulmein Road did not lend itself to a display of this kind and that he would prefer to stage it at No.31 Japanese Terrace, off Dixwell Road, O.O.L.

The massage house or brothel at 136/2 Moulmein Road is conducted by three persons, Madame Zoya, a red haired female who formerly conducted a boarding house at 72 Route Vallon, Nicolas Litvanoff, and his present paramour "Veronica." Veronica was formerly a prostitute in Mrs. Litvanoff's brothel at No.1 Japanese Terrace, Dixwell Road, O.O.L. and the affair between Litvanoff and Veronica leading to his separation from Mrs. Litvanoff obviously instigated Mrs. Litvanoff to lay the present complaint against her husband. When Litvanoff and Veronica decided to leave Mrs. Litvanoff, they borrowed \$600 from Indian money lenders and are finding great difficulty in repaying this sum. They are at present living together in two small rooms at 640 Weihaiwei Road. Another occupant of these two rooms is the ex-cashier of the "Black Diamond," an enterprise formerly conducted by the Litvanoffs at 48A Great Western Road. This person is a male Chinese named "Loh" and Nicolas Litvanoff is said to be financially indebted to him. "Loh" is also said to hold one of the copies of the deed of partnership drawn up in respect of 136/2 Moulmein Road on behalf of "Veronica."

Other residents of 136/2 Moulmein Road are Paderewsky, a Russian newspaperman, and Shmalovsky alias

Shmulevitch, paramour of Madame Zoya and the stepson of Jonin, the well known **crook**.

The establishment at 69 Sun Avenue is also a brothel and at the time it was visited there were three Russian females present. Unfortunately the manageress "Miss Olive" was absent. According to the females, this establishment is an ordinary brothel so it would appear that Litvanoff has not yet assumed control. Information from other sources is to the effect that he is negotiating for partnership in this enterprise, but his connection with it has not been definitely established.

This establishment appears in the massage column of the Shanghai Evening Post as "Miss Olive gives massage manicure and pino bath, 69 Sun Avenue, Bubbling Well Road."

AP-c

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Section 1, Special Branch.

REPORT

Date: Feb 15, 1937

Subject: Article of the "Novosti Dnia" dated 26-2-37 concerning alleged existence in Shanghai of the "Salon of Love", house of ill-fame.

Made by: D.S.I. Prokofiev. Forwarded by: J. Boyne D.S.I.

Enquiries have failed to prove the allegation regarding the existence in Shanghai of a house of ill-fame under the name of the "Salon of Love", where business is conducted on the lines indicated in the attached translation from the "Novosti Dnia" dated 26-2-37.

The editor of the "Novosti Dnia" has been unable to furnish any further information on the subject. In this connection it should be born in mind that on account of this newspaper's crave for sensation its information cannot be regarded as very reliable.

On the other hand, rumours have it that Mrs V. Li-vanoff alias Lily Desmonde alias Victoria Seou etc. is not above suspicion in this respect. This individual is the proprietress of a brothel at No 237 Dixwell Road (Chinese territory). The information she volunteered during the course of a conversation with two police officers in January, 1936 (vide report dated 13-1-36) seems to corroborate the suspicions against her. However, no tangible evidence is so far available.

It has been learned privately that enquiries made into this matter by the French Police have failed to substantiate the allegation of the "Novosti Dnia".

DC (C-1)

G. Prokofiev  
D. S. I.



D.C. (Special Branch)



FILE

282.  
16/3.

282.  
16/3.

translation from Russian newspaper NOVOSTI DNIA, February 26, 1937. Published by the Russian Publishing Co., 320 Avenue Koch. Editor- Mr. A.I. Veiss.

NEWS YOU RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL  
FROM THE "SALON OF LOVE"?

Follow English's latest conversation.

K-r-r-r-ring.... K-r-r-ring... K-r-r-ring...

The telephone receiver is picked up.

- Who A.?

- Yes.

- I am speaking from the salon.

- What salon?

- The "Salon of Love". It is the latest word of the gay Shanghai. Indeed, we have here the most handsome men in Shanghai, full of sex appeal. With them you can experience every pleasure. Our address is.....

Further conversation depends on the character of the lady who receives the call. If she likes exciting thrills, she will make a note of the address and ask again the number of the house in order to make sure. If she is indignant over the insolence of the caller, she will hang up the receiver.

The above dialogue is not a phantasy. Unfortunately, it is the dreadful and bitter reality of the dissolute Shanghai. Telephone calls and offers of this nature have by no means been a rarity in Shanghai since some time of late.

Preference is given to Russian ladies who are married to wealthy foreigners.

The offers are made in Russian and, judging from certain details, the master mind of this disgusting novelty is, unfortunately, a Russian who in the past was a great specialist in organizing similar dens.

It is to be hoped that the Police will be informed of the address of the "Salon of Love" and that an end will be put to the existence of the abominable establishment disgracing our city, while its organizers will be requested to leave the city.

Translator's note: Mr. A.I. Veiss, the editor of the NOVOSTI DNIA has been communicated with. He is unable to give the address of the place referred to in the above translation, but promised to let the Police know, as soon as he has received some definite information.

G. P. K. F. W.  
.....

D.S.I.

DC (C-1)

J-1

SI

Enigma



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2

2642

202-d  
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. *B. D.*

Section 2, Special Br. ~~Stork~~  
REPORT

Date ~~January 12, 1936~~

Subject House of ill-fame managed by Mrs. Livanoff.

Made by D.S. Jones

Forwarded by *D. I. Ross*

On the night of January 10/11/1936, the undersigned, accompanied by D. I. Ross, visited the Dixwell Road area in order to check up on a new brothel the existence of which became known when a Chinese forwarded to the Commissioner of Police two invitation cards printed in characters indicating that "a paradise" of some eighty or more "high-class beautiful European and American girls" was about to be opened at No. 237 Dixwell Road in the Tung Yang Lung opposite Urga Road.

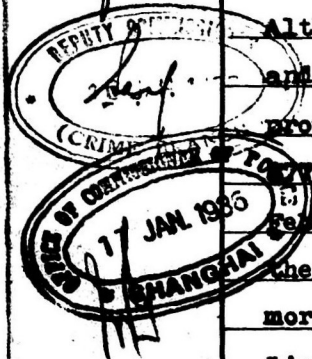
Unable to find this number we approached a Chapei policeman standing at the mouth of the alleyway and asked him if he knew where the foreign brothel in question was situated. Without any hesitation whatsoever he pointed to House No. 1 in the alleyway. Access to this house is gained from the Tung Yang Lung alleyway, which is policed by the Shanghai Public Safety Bureau. Only one side of the house, that which faces Dixwell Road, is on a municipal highway.

Although the house is in Chinese territory municipal rates and taxes have to be paid by the tenants. It is the property of the National Commercial Bank and the rent is 100.00 a month. Nicholas Livanoff took over the lease on February 1st, 1935, paying rates and taxes in advance for the two remaining months of the first quarter. Like many more of the tenants of houses on this extra-Settlement road, Livanoff, after making the initial payment and thus obtaining the keys of the house, has refused to make any further payments in rates and taxes to the Council.

Just as we approached the entrance a number of male Chinese drew up in a hire-car and were admitted after a short

C.P.

Infm.



file  
6-78



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Made by.....Forwarded by.....

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colloquy with the "boy" who opened the door. As the only figure visible on the door was a "1" we enquired of the Chinese "boy", who answered our ring, whether the house was indeed No. 237 Dixwell Road. He replied that it was and made no objections to our entering when he saw that we were in possession of the Chinese guest cards which were forwarded to the Commissioner. The room on the ground floor into which we were ushered was divided in the middle by a heavy dark curtain. As this curtain was drawn we could not see what lay beyond in the other portion of the room. The part of the room in which we found ourselves was furnished with a settee, a few easy chairs and two small tables. In one corner of the room was a musical machine manufactured in Chicago, which could be made to function by inserting a 20 cent piece in the slot provided for the purpose. After a brief wait a middle aged woman, whom we discovered to be the proprietress of the brothel, hobbled in on crutches. Although I had seen this woman but once before, on which occasion her features were partly concealed by a black cloak with cowed hood which she wore to make herself appear more mysterious looking while acting as a crystal gazer possessed of occult powers, I had no difficulty in identifying her as the notorious Mrs. Livanoff alias Lily Desmonde alias Victoria Secu etc.

From information subsequently obtained I learned that her husband, Nicholas Livanoff, recently left her and that in desperation over his abandonment she slashed her wrists with a razor in an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide. Her dependence on crutches for getting around is

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due to injuries which she received about a year ago. At that time she was conducting a bawdy house in the French Concession. Its evil reputation was becoming known far and wide and one night the French Police made a sudden and unexpected raid on the premises. In her haste to dodge the Police and avoid arrest Mrs. Livanoff fell down a flight of stairs and broke her hip.

The prices charged for drinks at 237 Dixwell Road are about the same as in other establishments of this kind: beer was one dollar a bottle; while a brandy, whisky, or packet of cigarettes also cost one dollar.

As Mrs. Livanoff was said to become quite talkative after a few drinks, we ordered a few rounds and saw that her glass was kept filled. By dint of much skilful questioning and by patiently listening to the woman's chatter a fair amount of information was obtained from her. She gave her name as Nicholas, which is the first name of her husband. When asked about the eighty or more European and American girls whom the establishment claimed to have engaged for the delectation of its habitués, she stated that if required these could be obtained by means of a telephone call to their respective homes.

We had been seated about a quarter of an hour when noises from the portion of the rooms screened from our vision by the dark curtain warned us that something was about to happen. The curtain was pulled to one side giving us an uninterrupted view of three harlots, two of whom appeared to be Russian and one Chinese, reclining on the floor in suggestive postures. This part of the room now



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formed a sort of alcove across the ceiling of which were strung several rows of small electric lamps of variegated colours which flickered on and off. Possibly this arrangement had some bearing on the "Paradise" described on the attached visiting cards. The three prostitutes posing on the floor were inadequately clad in gossamer-like dresses of what appeared to be lace, which scarcely covered their posteriors: a flimsy brassiere, the effect of which was enhanced by an imitation red rose, completed the ensemble. As neither Inspector Ross nor myself seemed over eager to get on more intimate terms with the star performers in this semi-nudist act, they became somewhat restless and began to complain of the cold. The Chinese girl, who did not appear to be more than sixteen years of age, scrambled to her feet and climbed on top of the radiator and sat there shivering. This somewhat spoiled the general effect, so one of the Russian women came over and asked if she could borrow a great-coat from one of us, as she, too, felt a little chilly. In the meantime a party of French people were heard talking in the passage, and the other Russian girl, who apparently did not regard us as very likely prospects, seized her opportunity to slip out and intercept them. We did not have an opportunity to examine the bedrooms to see what was meant by the specially constructed beds and chairs described on the admission cards printed in Chinese.

Altogether there did not appear to be more than six foreign (Russian) prostitutes on the premises. There were no American girls in evidence, although Mrs. Livanoff

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stated that some could quickly be called if required.

✓ We gathered from Mrs. Livanoff's remarks that "respectable" married women whose husbands are unable to satisfy their sexual appetites were in the habit of visiting the establishment and making use of the services of gigolos employed there. These women, stated Mrs. Livanoff, are of American, English and French nationality and invariably wear masks in order to avoid recognition. If she is to be believed, there are two kinds of gigolos - the Red, and the Blue. Those termed Red gigolos may be hired to accompany women clients to places of amusement and act in the capacity of paid companions or entertainers to the women who engage them. They are not required to give sexual satisfaction to their patrons. On the other hand; the Blue gigolos are hired either by the hour or the night, for the sole purpose of satisfying the lust of such female clients as visit the brothel. The cost of hiring a Blue gigolo for the night is one hundred dollars. It is not known what kinds of sex perversion are conducted at No. 237 Dixwell Road, but Mrs. Livanoff did hint that almost anything in this line could be arranged, provided the remuneration was sufficient. ✓

There seemed to be no fixed scale of charges for the services of the prostitutes present at the time of our visit. Fifteen dollars was mentioned as the minimum charge for a "short time" with one of the girls. This, of course, would have to be paid over to the brothel 'madame' before taking the girl. The woman taken upstairs would receive a certain percentage of the amount paid over for her services and something else for the drinks or cigarettes purchased. In

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addition to this she probably manages to extract a few dollars by way of "cumsha" from the majority of those willing to pay fifteen or twenty dollars to the management for her favours.

It is not known what prophylactic measures, if any, are taken to safeguard the health of the prostitutes or the frequenters of this dive of iniquity, but one of the girls whom we questioned on this point stated that she allowed no man to copulate with her unless he first put two rubber sheaths over his penis. Possibly she exaggerated a little.

During the time we were on the premises business appeared to be very brisk and one girl was observed to leave the room to prostitute herself with at least four different clients.

I have obtained information that Nicholas Livanoff, the husband of Mrs. Livanoff, is now running a brothel on his own account at No. 142 C. North Szechuen Road, Lane 1000, House 3.

*b. Jones*  
D. S.

Deputy Commissioner (Special Branch)

Translation.

Announcement by "Mrs. Nyi".

As Mr. Nicoll (?) has removed I have taken over the establishment from this month. My present address is 237 Dixwell Road, opposite to Unga Road, first house in Tung Yang Lung. The telephone number is 40988. For your benefit I have engaged more than eighty high-class beautiful European and American girls who will accord you the most enthusiastic reception. The premises are furnished in the most modern style, the chairs and beds being specially constructed. You will never care to go elsewhere once you have entered my house.

Within the next few days a "paradise" will be opened in these premises in imitation of those provided in Paris. Within the "paradise" there will be found thirty charming girls, sitting, standing, reclining, or dancing. Awaiting your selection they will smile at you with the most alluring smile.

I take pleasure to send you this announcement with my best compliments.



REFERRED TO  
POLICE FORCE  
h.  
24 DEC. 1935

ROOMS TO LET

237 DIXWELL ROAD HOUSE 1  
OPPOSITE URGAL ROAD

TEL. 40988

狄思威路三三七號過嘉興路橋向北  
歐嘉路對面東洋供一號

倪  
柯  
爾

電話四零九八八號

*obvisee*

倪夫人啟事

仰賴親君現已遷出本月  
七號搬移現任位與路二三  
宿話四〇九八八號茲為  
幸程起見特延請上等西  
女子八十餘人熟習招待  
內備有新穎床椅特製一  
人其內與君  
人或坐或立或臥或睡  
姿態迷人任君選擇用特  
此 恭 喜



Dear Sir

I wish you pay more  
attention of this card and  
hope you have the Chinese  
letter translation into  
English carefully and I  
think you will clean this  
dirty place out

Wishing you a merry  
Christmas & Happy New Year

Yours truly

H. S. N.

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. E. REGISTRY.

File No.

D

S. 2, Special Branch.

## REPORT

Date March 18, 1935.

Subject Legality of advertising as a Fortune-teller.

Made by D.S. Jones.

Forwarded by

With reference to this enquiry, on Saturday last I visited the Chung Woo Building at 320 Nanking Road in order to interview the woman advertising as a clairvoyant.

The occupant of Flat 216 is a Chinese doctor named Lew Ding (刘丁). It has been sub-divided by the use of partitions into a small entrance hall which serves as an office, a doctor's surgery and a small cubicle. This cubicle is sub-let by the doctor to the advertiser. The doctor was inclined to be conversational and tried to get a few particulars from me, probably with the idea of passing them on to the fortune-teller. I intimated that my visit was made at the instance of a lady friend who desired to have her fortune told, but first of all required to know a few particulars such as the nationality of the palmist, her scale of charges etc.

Although I arrived but shortly before 11 a.m. the crystal-gazer had still not reached the office. She turned up at about 11.20 a.m., but did not enter straight away. Apparently someone met her outside in the passage and informed her that a client was waiting, for I was invited by the doctor to step into the surgery while she passed by into the cubicle. Probably she thought that much of the mystery surrounding her profession would be lost if prospective clients saw her in street attire. A few minutes after she had entered her den I was ushered in. The electricity had been switched off and the place was dimly lighted by candles set in a brass sconce. On a table in one corner of the room a human skull grinned at one, while arranged cross-wise before it were two thigh bones. The fortune-teller was seated at a small table upon which was a pack of cards. She was dressed in a long black gown with a hood and was so swathed

To the D.D.O.C.  
please.





## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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Station, .....

Date, ..... 19...

Subject .....

Made by .....

Forwarded by .....

in this that only her hands and part of the features were visible. As near as I could judge she is a woman of about sixty years of age. During the course of the tete-a-tete which I had with her I learned that her charges were from three to fifteen dollars a visit, according to the nature of the seance. Crystal gazing is one of the most expensive items in her bag of tricks. After a certain amount of hesitation she finally admitted that she was half Russian and half French, so she is probably pure Russian. Her accent was decidedly Russian. She wanted to know the name of the lady I was supposed to be bringing to see her. When I demurred she said she would be content if she knew the Christian name, as if she knew the first name of the subject she would be able to tell all about her as she herself was "very strong".

To see how far she would go I suggested helping her by bringing a typewritten sheet giving all particulars of the lady, who is purely imaginary, provided she would help me to win her by putting certain ideas into her head. At first she objected but finally agreed when I promised to make it well worth her while.

According to a visiting card which I saw in the room her name is Barbara Gophin.

She is apparently Russian and would therefore come under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Courts. There is nothing in the Chinese Criminal Code against fortune-telling and it does not appear to be an offence against China law.

X  
This person is identical with Victoria E. Livanoff  
alias Victoria Seon (files S 1205, A. 3790 - HKow misc 10/35).  
K. R. Misc 10/35 + Hong Kong Reg. 8.9.34.

D. C. (Special Branch).

D.

S.

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

## REPORT

Date

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- 2 -

Subject.....

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

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She is apparently Russian and would therefore come under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Courts. There is nothing in the Chinese Criminal Code against fortune-telling and it does not appear to be an offence against China law.

This form is identical with Victoria E. Livansk  
alias Victoria Leon (files B 1205, A. 3790 - H. K. H. 10/35)  
K. R. Misc 10/35 + H. K. H. 10/35

D. C. (Special Branch).

D.

S.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

S. B. REG. 11.1.

D

6578

Date

14 / 3 / 35

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1935

**PERSONAL**

**J**UST arrived, Clairvoyant, tells fortune through spiritual science and connecting with other world. Famous palmist and astrologist, etc., etc. Office hours: 11-1, 6-9. Appointment Tel. 90167 only from 6-9. 216 Chung Woo Building, 320 Nanking Road (Entrance from Shanse Road). 18800

S2, For investigation  
and report please. Would  
it be possible to bring a  
charge against this person?

*JH*

14 MAR. 1935

D.S. Jones

OKR 14/3.

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
Special Investigation Station,  
No. S. B. D. 1205  
Date July 29, 1930.  
30-7-30

Subject (in full) Dauphine Desmonde.

Made by S. Varndell.

Forwarded by

Whenean L S J

Sir,

I beg to report that Mrs. Livenoff alias Madam Canette alias Victoria Scott alias Madam Daffin Desmond alias Dauphine Desmonde put for public showing on the evening of the 27-7-30 at Paris Theatre, "Prestidigitation," under the name of the latter alias, assisted by T.E. Rosario, a Portuguese.

Act I consisted of being handcuffed and placed into a trunk, which was locked and roped, and placed behind a curtained stand. After a period of five minutes places were exchanged by her and Rosario.

Act II. Dauphine Desmonde appears on the stage in a bathing costume and is chained about the body, handcuffed and legironed, placed behind the said mentioned curtain, and after a period of five minutes, extricated herself.

Act III. Rosario appears as a magician, with a wand and a pack of cards, he distributes cards about the audience, then calls for a card and at the same time will draw the corresponding card from the pack.

Act IV. Dauphine Desmonde appears as a witch and with the assistance of Rosario, is able to tell what is being produced, in the form of money, articles and writings.

The handcuffs which are used, are of the S.M.P. type, large size, and Dauphine Desmonde's hands being very small she is able to remove them very easily. As to the trunk, it is the usual sort with a sliding panel, the undersigned was able to obtain a good view for when assistants were called for from the audience, the undersigned went on the stage.

Attached: Cutting from the Shanghai Sunday Times and abstract copy of file from massage establishments concerning

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

Station, .....

Date .....

19 .....

Subject (in full) .....

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Made by .....

Forwarded by .....

Daughter of Desmonde in her various kind of occupations.

*Ch. H. L. ...*

D. S.

D. S.

(C. & S. Branches)

*D.B. (Gr. and Sp. Br.'s)*

*Information.*

*Major Price-Williams has promised  
to endeavour to obtain information  
re No. 59 Avenue Road.*

*J.H.S.*

*29:7:30.*

*Recd  
29/7*

THE SHANGHAI SUNDAY TIMES. JULY 27, 1930.



**AT PARIS TO-NIGHT**

Madame Dauphine Desmonde the clever illusionist, will appear at the Paris Theatre this evening at 9.15. Marvellous acts of magic are announced, including the magic trunk, freeing herself from chains, thought reading, etc. Madame Dauphine has mystified many with her uncanny reading of past events. Any questions that are asked by the audience to-night will be placed in envelopes and confidential replies given thereto.

EXTRACT COPY FROM MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

No. 59 Avenue Road is a licenced boarding house owned by one named Mrs. E. Lekkor, Estonian, who sublets one room to Mr. and Mrs. Livanoff. Mrs. Livanoff alias Madam Ganette alias Victoria Seou alias Madam Dafin Desmond alleges to conduct a massage establishment under the name of Madam Ganette and Fortune Telling under the name of Victoria Seou. Under the name of Madam Dafin Desmond, she conducts Prestidigitation with an assistant named T.E. Rosario, a Portuguese, whose parents reside at the Pootung Customs House. Arrangements are being made by her with the Majestic Hotel Management to appear there in public. Enquiries show that this establishment is of the worst type, where immoral practices of every kind are committed.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

REPORT

File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
Special Branch No. 2 Station,  
S. B. D. 1205  
Date July 23, 1930.  
23 - 7 - 30

Subject (in full) Occupants of No. 59 Avenue Road.

Made by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Forwarded by D.S.I. Duncan.

Sir,

Herewith file on Mr. and Mrs. Livanoff who reside at No. 59 Avenue Road. No. 59 is a licensed boarding house owned by a Mrs. E. Mekkor, Estonian, who is considered respectable. Pte. D.I. Murie, R.A.M.C. who was arrested there on July 19th was introduced to Mrs. Mekkor by Mrs. Livanoff as an actor from America. While residing there Murie gave his name as Terance Reynolds. He spent most of his time in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Livanoff and had his meals in their room.

W. Duncan.  
D. S. I.

D. C.

(C. & S. Branches)

D.C. (Branches)  
Information. Major Price-Williams has promised to obtain as much information as possible about No. 59 Avenue Road from Pte. D.I. Murie.

Reg. 24:7:30  
Reg. 25:7:30  
Reg. 26:10:30  
Reg. 27:10:30  
Reg. 28:10:30  
Reg. 29:10:30  
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Reg. 98:10:30  
Reg. 99:10:30  
Reg. 100:10:30



Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

To

Shanghai.

22:7:1930

S2,

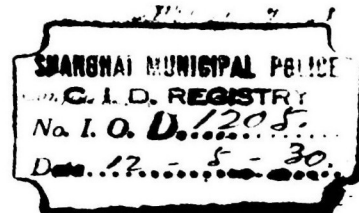
Please get me  
as soon as possible  
all the information  
we possess about  
No. 59 Avenue Road  
and the people who  
reside there?

What is the full  
name of the British  
soldier who was  
arrested at this  
address a day or two  
ago?

JH

EXTRACT FROM POLICE REPORT ON MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

No 59 Avenue Road is a licensed boarding house owned by one named Mrs. E. Mekkor, Estonian, who sub-lets one room to Mr. and Mrs. Livanoff. Mrs. Livanoff alias Madam Ganette alias Victoria Seou alias Madam Dafin Desmond alleges to conduct a massage establishment under the name of Madam Ganette and Fortune Telling under the name of Victoria Seou. Under the name of Madam Dafin Desmond, she conducts Prestidigitation with an assistant named T.E. Rosario, a Portuguese, whose parents reside at the Pootung Customs House. Arrangements are being made by her with the Majestic Hotel Management to appear there in public. Enquiries show that this establishment is of the worst type, where immoral practices of every kind are committed.



May 8, 30.

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 1234, dated April 29, 1930, regarding Mr. Nicolas Nicolaevitch Livanoff and his wife Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff, and to forward herewith a copy of an anonymous letter together with a copy of a Police report concerning these persons.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Deputy Commissioner  
(Crime & Special Branches)

Consul-General for the Netherlands,  
Shanghai.

60. P. 1201  
May 8, 30.

SECRET & CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith,  
for your information, a copy of an anonymous letter  
received in respect of a Mr. Nicolas Nicolaevitch  
Livanoff and his wife Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff  
alias Victoria Seou, together with a copy of a  
Police report regarding these persons.


I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

Deputy Commissioner  
(Crime & Special Branches)

H.B.M. Consul-General,  
Shanghai.



May 6, 1930.

Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Madan Ganette alias  
Victoria Seou.

With reference to the attached anonymous letter, inquiries show that Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Madan Ganette alias Victoria Seou is a fortune teller and actress. She is a native of Warsaw and was born in 1893. It is said that she has been married four times. The first husband was Mr. Korkine, a Russian officer, who was killed during the Great War, Second, Baron Toll killed during revolution. Third, Captain Koishi Senoo of the Japanese Army, who perished in 1923 during the earthquake in Japan. She married her present husband, Mr. N.N. Livanoff in 1924 at Shanghai. She left Russia in 1918 and until 1923 lived in Harbin and Japan, and has visited most of the big towns in China, including Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow, Hongkong and Canton. She has a bad reputation and it is reported that information obtained through fortune telling is used for blackmailing her clients. She also acts as a "go between" for men and women for immoral purposes.

Mr. Bruce, Manager of Shanghai Mercury Ltd, 14 Foochow Road, whose name is mentioned in this anonymous letter, knew Mrs. Seou in Tientsin as a woman of bad reputation and was believed to be trafficking in women. Miss Fuller, British, employed in the "Mercury" knew Mrs. Seou in Harbin in 1928 and came under Mrs. Seou's influence there. Mrs. Seou decided that they should leave Harbin for Shanghai, but before leaving Harbin, she took all Miss Fuller's money and clothes, and tried to change her British passport for a Chinese one. At Dairen Miss Fuller escaped from Mrs. Seou and made a complaint to the Japanese Police and British Consul. Before the Japanese Police could take action Mrs. Seou left Dairen.

Miss Fuller knows that Mrs. Seou swindled many other girls by promising them to regain their lost sweethearts etc. by her magic powers.

Quite probably the anonymous letter has been written by Miss Fuller who has sufficient reason to dislike Mrs. Seou. Mr. Fog who is also mentioned in this letter is a Dane and resides at 2 Route Grouchy and has an office at No. 2A Kiukiang Road, where he carries on a fur merchants business. Fog recommended Mrs. Seou for a British visa to enable her to proceed to Singapore and Colombo.

Mrs. Seou is in possession of a German visa and her intention is to proceed to Berlin, Germany. She intends to give some performance on her way to Germany which is the reason she has applied for a Netherlands visa for Dutch East Indies. She also applied for British visa for Singapore and Colombo. It is not known that Mrs. Seou is connected with Bolshevik Communistic activities.

Her husband, Mr. Nikolas Nikolaevich Livanoff, residing at 59 Avenue Road, is a native of Varsovie, born in 1903, was educated at Habarovsk Cadet Corps School. He left Russia from Vladivostock in 1922 for Shanghai and was employed here by the Russian Cadet Corps as assistant tutor. In 1923 he left for Canton where he was employed by the Portuguese River Police. In 1924 he returned to Shanghai and set up a small electric contractors business which lasted for about 6 months. Afterwards he assisted his wife in her business of fortune telling. He is much junior to her and it is said he is absolute under her influence. It is not known that he is in any way connected with Bolshevik.

Enquiries show that neither have been convicted in the International Settlement or French Concession.

C O P Y.  
-----

This is a Russian woman and her husband known as Mrs. Victoria Seou from Harbin and yrs in French Concession. She is working against the British and her agencies in Calcutta. Her friend a big Dane named Foc or Fock, is her No. 1 man. She also imports girls from Harbin, Russian Siberia on commission. Refer to Bruce of Times newspaper and he known of her from Tientsin.

About 5 wks ago she left Ave Joffre house and moves every few wks, now is trying to purchase a passport to get to Hongkong, has a husband young cadet boy to " and Calcutta is her object now.

With a few glasses of drinks in she tells lots. from one who know she is a trouble maker and Bolshevik she is Polish Jew only Ruskey by marriage.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai, 8:5: 1930.

To

Reg.

Please prepare  
letters forwarding  
copies of the report  
to H. B. M. B. G.  
and Dutch Consul-  
General. When  
ready for dispatch,  
please bring these  
communications to  
me, so that I can  
arrange where the  
remainder of  
the instructions of H. B.  
G. S. (H. B. G.) carried out.  
M. B.



## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

Foreign Section Station,

Date May 6, 1930

Subject (in full)

Mr. Nicolas Nicolaevitch Livanoff and his wife Mrs.  
Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Victoria Seou.

Made by D.S. Tcherevshansky.

Forwarded by Thos Robertson Lieut.

With reference to attached letter dated April 29th from the Consulate General for the Netherlands re: Mr. Nicolas Nicolaevitch Livanoff and his wife Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Victoria Seou, enquiries show that neither have been convicted in the International Settlement or French Concession, nor are they known to be connected with Communistic activities. However, as the attached report will show Mrs. Livanoff has a very bad reputation and is engaged in all probability in White Slave traffic.

Tcherevshansky  
D. S.

D. C.

(C. &amp; S. Branches)

Sir  
I respectfully suggest that attached report be shown to Mr. Van den Berg confidentially.

Whelan

D.S.D. 6-5-30

D. C.  
(C & S 13)

D.C. (D.S.)

Please tell D.S. this report & attached shows considerable improvement.  
S/S. L.C.H.

Copy for Mr. C. & Dutch Cons General together with copy of anonymous letter below letter to Mr. Van den Berg  
S.C.H.  
D.C.

7:5:30  
Done  
gph  
4:5:30

CONSULAAT-GENERAAL DER NEDERLANDEN  
VOOR MIDDEN-CHINA.  
TEL. AD. HOLLANDIA.

No. 1134

SHANGHAI, 29th April 1930.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. Nicolas Nicolaevitch LIVANOFF and his wife Mrs. Victoria Eugenie LIVANOFF, calling herself Victoria MECU both born at Warsaw on 27th September 1868 and 7th September 1893 respectively, fortunetellers by profession, domiciled at 59 Ave. Road, possessing passport 179 issued by the Commissioner of Public Safety of the Municipality of Greater Shanghai on 6 April 1930, desire to proceed to Netherlands India.

I should feel greatly obliged for any information you might possess concerning these persons as regards their politics or morals.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Chinese Secretary  
for Consul General.

R.C. Aiers, Esquire,

A/Director of Criminal Investigation,  
Shanghai Municipal Council,  
Shanghai.

Foreign Section,  
For attention please  
JMS 20.4.30

OC. (S.B.)  
JMS

30/4

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

Division Section Station

Date May 6, 193

Subject (in full) Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Madan Ganette alias  
Victoria Seou.

Made by D.S. Tolstomsky. Forwarded by

With reference to the attached anonymous letter, inquiries show that Mrs. Victoria Eugenie Livanoff alias Madan Ganette alias Victoria Seou is a fortune teller and actress. She is a native of Varsovie and was born in 1893. It is said that she has been married four times. The first husband was Mr. Korkine, a Russian officer, who was killed during the Great War. Second, Baron Toll killed during Revolution. Third, Captain Koishi Senoo of the Japanese Army, who perished in 1923 during the earthquake in Japan. She married her present husband, Mr. M.N. Livanoff in 1924 at Shanghai. She left Russia in 1918 and until 1923 lived in Harbin and Japan, and has visited most of the big towns in China, including Shanghai, Tientsin, Hankow, Hongkong and Canton. She has a bad reputation and it is reported that information obtained through fortune telling is used for blackmailing her clients. She also acts as a "go between" for men and women for immoral purposes.

Mr. Bruce, Manager of Shanghai Mercury Ltd, 14 Foochow Road, whose name is mentioned in this anonymous letter, knew Mrs. Seou in Tientsin as a woman of bad reputation and was believed to be trafficking in women. Miss Fuller, British, employed in the "Mercury" knew Mrs. Seou in Harbin in 1928 and came under Mrs. Seou's influence there. Mrs. Seou decided that they should leave Harbin for Shanghai, but before leaving Harbin, she took all Miss Fuller's money and clothes, and tried to change her British passport for a Chinese one. At Dairen Miss Fuller escaped from Mrs. Seou and made a complaint to the Japanese Police and British Consul. Before the Japanese Police could take action Mrs. Seou left Dairen.

## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT

Station, \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

19 \_\_\_\_\_

Subject (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 -

Made by \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

Miss Fuller has stated that she has influenced many other girls by promising them to regain their lost sweethearts etc. by using her powers.

Quite probably the anonymous letter has been written by Miss Fuller who has sufficient reason to dislike Mrs. Seou. Mr. Fog who is also mentioned in this letter is a Dane and resides at 2 Route Grouchy and has an office at No. 2a Kiukiang Road, where he carries on a fur merchants business. Fog recommended Mrs. Seou for a British visa to enable her to proceed to Singapore and Colombo.

Mrs. Seou is in possession of a German visa and her intention is to proceed to Berlin, Germany. She intends to give some performance on her way to Germany which is the reason she has applied for a Netherlands visa for Dutch East Indies. She also applied for British visa for Singapore and Colombo. It is not known that Mrs. Seou is connected with Bolshevik Communistic activities.

Her husband, Mr. Nikolas Nikolaevich Livanoff, residing at 59 Avenue Road, is a native of Varsovie, born in 1903, was educated at Nabarovsk Cadet Corps School. He left Russia from Vladivostok in 1922 for Shanghai and was employed here by the Russian Cadet Corps as assistant tutor. In 1923 he left for Canton where he was employed by the Portuguese River Police. In 1924 he returned to Shanghai and set up a small electric contractors business which lasted for about 8 months. Afterwards he assisted his wife in her business of fortune telling. He is much junior to her and it is said he is absolute under her influence. It is not known that he is in any way connected with Bolsheviks.

D. S.

D. C. &amp; S. Branches)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL DO

C. I. D. REGISTRY

No. I. O. D. 1205.

Date 28-11-30

FRENCH Lady, Mme. Ganette, gives  
general message, 59 Avenue Road,  
Telephone 36024, ladies 9 to 12, gentlemen 2 to 8.  
7617

This is a Russian woman ~~her husband~~  
known as Mrs. Victoria Seow from Harbin  
& yrs. in French Concession. She is working against the  
7 British & her agencies in Calcutta. Her grand a big  
Dance named Top or Fock. is her No. 1. man  
She also imports girls from Harbin Russian China  
on Communism. Refer to Bruce of Times  
news paper & he knows of her from Tientsin  
about 10 yrs ago she left. An paper  
house & moves every 4th weeks. now is trying  
to purchase a passport to get to Hong Kong  
has a husband young Cabot boy. to "  
& Calcutta is her object. now  
with a new glass of drinks in she tells  
lots. When one who know she is  
a trouble maker & I believe she is  
Robert Jew. only Ruckey by marriage.

Foreign Section,

For attention

28:4:30.

S.B.D 1205.

**Shanghai Municipal Police.**

O.I.D. Headquarter Staff, Station

September 16th, 1926.

**REPORT ON Mr. & Mrs. Livanoff alias Mr. & Mrs. Secu absconding  
from Kuling.**

Made by **D.S.I. MacDermott** Forwarded by **C. I. D. SUPERINTENDENT**

Sir,

Reference attached letter of September 10th 1926 from  
Supt. of Police, Kiukiang, we can take no action in the  
absence of complaint from Mr. Dunne, Kuling, and proper warrant  
from the Chinese Authorities.

Pending such Authority, I beg to suggest the attached  
correspondence, etc. be filed.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*16 Mac Dermott.*

D. S. I.

*MM*  
D. O. I.

Kukiang, 10th. September 1926.

B1574  
16-9-26

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of the 4th. inst., with reference to a telegram sent by me for the detention of a Palmist by the name of LIVANOFF.

The telegram was sent to you in compliance with a telephone message received by me from P.E.Dunn, of the Kuling Hotel at Kuling, from which the Livanoffs had escaped leaving un-paid accounts to the extent of about One hundred and sixty dollars Mex; and in explanation I enclose copy of a letter sent by me to Mr. Dunn.

You are doubtless aware of the nondescript and unconstitutional status of the Kuling Estate, and the almost complete impotence of their Police Authority to protect residents there.

Mr. Dunn notified me that he was applying for a Warrant from the Chinese Authorities, and that the Inspector of Police in Kuling was sending you details of the charge made against the Livanoff's, and also information regarding several jewelry robberies there.

I have however received no confirmation from Kuling that any effective action has been taken by the Police Authority there, and as the offence, if any, was not committed here in this Concession I am powerless to exceed the action I have already taken, and I have recommended Mr. Dunn to place the matter in the hands of a Shanghai Barrister so as to communicate with you direct if desired.

I have also advised Mr. Dunn that the Livanoffs are in Shanghai.

Yours faithfully,

*John A. Reid*  
Supt. of Police, MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

*Copy attached*

To the,

Commissioner of Police,

Criminal Investigation Department,

Municipal Police,

SHANGHAI

31st of August, 26.

P. E. Dunn, Esquire,

THE KULING HOTEL, K U L I N G.

Dear Sir;

Your letter of even date just to hand, the contents of which has been duly noted; and in reply I beg to state that such steps will be taken as to insure that if the couple who are travelling under the name MR. & MRS. LIVANOFF, VICTORIA SEOU, &/or Mr. & Mrs. Seou, should enter this Concession they will be detained, and immediate information will be sent to you; but in the meantime you should apply to the Chinese Local & Kiukiang Authorities for a Warrant for their apprehension on Native-soil, as detention here is subject to such a Warrant unless they hold documents of British Nationality.

I have already sent Agents to watch all Steamers,

With consent of H.B.M. Consul I shall notify the Native Police

of your intention to apply for a Warrant, trusting this is your wish.

I am, Dear Sir;

Your obedient Servant;

Superintendent of Police, K. M. C.



~~B1571~~  
~~1911~~

September 4, 6

Dear Sir,

A telegram, copy of which is attached,  
has reached me from Kiukiang.

As it has not been confirmed by letter,  
I should be obliged if you would be good enough  
to inform me if it was despatched by yourself.

A palmist bearing the name referred  
to has arrived here and is now staying at a  
house in the French Concession.

Yours faithfully,

  
Commissioner of Police.

Superintendent of Police,

K I U K I A N G .

Shanghai Municipal Police.

Hongkew

Station.

September 2 1926

REPORT ON Telegram from ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Kinkiang

Made by P.C.C. Boulanin

Forwarded by

G. MacKenzie M.P.

Sir:-

I beg to report that the person named in the attached telegram, received by me from D.S.I. MacDermott, named "Livanoff alias Viactoria Seou" is a female fortune teller, and is now living at No 10 ~~Passage~~ Avenue Joffre, Passage No 532. She is Russian and arrived here from Kuling on 1/9/'26. She intends carrying on fortune-telling (palmistry etc,) at the above address.

I am

Sir

Yours Obediently,

A. Boulanin.

P.C.C. 267.

W  
G. B

10/9/26

中國電報局

本局號數  
JOURNAL NO.

THE CHINESE TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION

局  
OFFICE

由 From	14 35	附註 REMARKS	由電報局收到 Received From Telegraph Office
時刻 Time	點 分 H M		日期 Date
簽名 By	21		點 分 H M
原電號數 TELEGRAM NO.	40/163	第 10 字數 WORDS	17
發報局 Office from	Kiukiang	日期 Date	1/9 點 分 H M
			10 M 30

Smc Polace  
Shanghai  
Detain Livanoff alias  
viactoria Seou palmist  
escaped Kuling hotel  
inform dunnet Kuling  
Hoc Police

as the  
1926

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.**

Section 1, Special Branch  
**REPORT**

Date February 26, 1940.

Subject. Mrs. V. Livanoff alias Victoria Seou alias Mrs. E.V.L. Toll -  
present activities.

Made by D. S. I. Prokofiev. Forwarded by D.I. Crawford.

Inquiries regarding the exact nature of business conducted by Mrs. Toll at the "Shanghai Bureau of Business Service", 159 Peking Road, show that the Bureau shares an office on the second floor of the building with two small Chinese firms - Ah Wong & Co. and Hong Young & Co., and pays \$30 per month for the part of the office it occupies. Otherwise there seems to be no connection between the Bureau and these firms.

The enterprise is operated as an employment bureau. When registering with the Bureau applicants for employment pay \$3.00 registration fees for each period of 6 months. It appears that, if an employment is found for an applicant thus registered, he must pay to the Bureau 10% of his first monthly wages or a lump sum the amount of which is agreed upon by the parties concerned. The majority of the clients are reported to be of the Russian nationality.

Mrs. Toll is known to have mentioned recently that she is engaged in the "shipping business" at present, under which term, it appears, she understands the recruiting of sailors etc. for the crews of various ships. In view of her well established reputation of a brothel keeper it is difficult to believe that she has entirely abandoned her former activities and does not assist her former male and female clients by furnishing information required by them. An enquiry by phone as to whether or not the Bureau undertakes missions of a "delicate nature" was promptly replied in

**FILE**

INDEXED BY  
(S.S.) REGISTRY

DATE 27/2/40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

REPORT

Station, .....

Date ..... 19

-2-

Subject .....

Made by .....

Forwarded by .....

the affirmative and was followed by an invitation to call at the Bureau for further particulars. However, nothing definite has been ascertained on this point.

It is of interest to note that in May, 1939 three female agents of Mrs. Toll, who at that time conducted the so-called "Foreign Refugees Employment Bureau" at 330 Szechuen Road, acted as agents for the Japanese Gendarmerie ( C.I, Misc. file No. 52/39 ).

A. Prokofiev  
D. S. I.

626.7

A. C. ( Special Branch )

Registration Form of the  
Shanghai Bureau of Business Service.

THE SHANGHAI BUREAU OF BUSINESS SERVICE  
(E. V. Toll)  
159 PEKING ROAD  
TEL. 19066

---

NAME: .....

NATIONALITY: .....

AGE: .....

SPECIALITY: .....

ADDRESS: .....

SHANGHAI ZARIA, FEBRUARY 9, 1940

**ШАНХАЙ БЮРО ОФ БИЗНЕС СЕРВИС**  
примит срочно зайтия менов, записанных  
почегаров и матросов. 159 Peking Road  
2-й этаж. 01307

Translation

THE SHANGHAI BUREAU OF BUSINESS SERVICE  
Members registered as firemen and sailors are  
requested to call at the Bureau without delay.  
159 Peking Road, 2nd Floor.

MRS. E. V. P. TOLL  
General Manager  
The Shanghai Bureau of Business Service

159 Peking Road  
Shanghai

Tel. 19066